

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 05500 061022Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 TRSE-00 AID-05 /060 W
-----013621 061027Z /23

O 060955Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4012

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 5500

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, RP
SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE ELECTIONS: U.S. PUBLIC POSTURE

REF: MANILA 5323

1. REFTEL PRESENTS OUR ESTIMATE MARCOS WILL LIKELY RESORT TO MAJOR FRAUD AND MANIPULATION TO ASSURE KBL SWEEP IN METRO MANILA ELECTIONS. WE EXPECT REACTIVE OUTCRY BY OPPOSITION TO BE PICKED UP BY NUMBER OF FOREIGN PRESS GATHERING HERE. THIS MESSAGE FOCUSES ON MOST APPROPRIATE U.S. PUBLIC POSTURE IN WAKE OF ELECTIONS.

2. IT MAY TAKE FEW DAYS, GIVEN EMBASSY'S CURRENT LOW-POSTURE PERSPECTIVE, ADEQUATELY TO ANALYZE ELECTION RESULTS AND SCOPE OF FAVOR AND FRAUD IN ELECTORAL PROCESS. DURING THAT TIME, WE BELIEVE DEPARTMENT SHOULD AVOID ANY OFFICIAL REACTION AND DECLINE ANSWER QUESTIONS, NOTING LACK OF ADEQUATE/FULL INFORMATION.

3. ALSO IN LONGER RUN, WE WOULD HOPE THAT DEPARTMENT WILL FIND IT POSSIBLE TO AVOID SUBSTANTIVE, ATTRIBUTED COMMENT SINCE ALMOST ANY CRITICISM OF ELECTION PROCESS OR OUTCOME WOULD LIKELY EVOKE SHARP GOP REACTION IN VEIN OF THAT FOLLOWING PRESS SPOKESMAN'S "DISTURBING" NOTE ON AQUINO DEATH SENTENCING
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LAST NOVEMBER. OTHER HAND, UNLESS RESULT MUCH DIFFERENT THAN ANTICIPATED, ALMOST ANY EFFORT TO DEFINE AND EMPHASIZE THE POSITIVE IN THE ELECTION WOULD LIKELY BE SUSPECT AS NAIVE OR PARTISAN.

4. IF DEPARTMENT FACED AT ANY TIME WITH PRESS QUESTIONS LINKED TO CHARGES OF U.S. INTERFERENCE IN ELECTION, WE

BELIEVE DEPARTMENT SHOULD MAKE POINT CLEARLY THAT SUCH CHARGES ARE UNFOUNDED.

5. FOR OUR PART ONLY DESIGNATED SENIOR EMBOFFS ARE BRIEFING FOREIGN JOURNALISTS AND THEN ONLY ON IF ASKED AND BACKGROUND BASIS, DRAWING ON REFTEL. WE PLAN TO REPEAT NO ATTRIBUTED SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT AFTER ELECTIONS.

6. WOULD WELCOME DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS.
STULL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTIONS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANILA05500
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780148-0758
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780486/aaaacuxa.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 988f5cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MANILA 5323
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3055847
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PHILIPPINE ELECTIONS: U.S. PUBLIC POSTURE
TAGS: PINT, RP, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/988f5cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014